



## NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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# PRESS RELEASE

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### **The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to Remove Aeronautical Data from Public Access 1 October**

**ST. LOUIS, MO**--The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) will remove its Flight Information Publications (FLIP), the electronic Chart Updating Manual (eCHUM) and Digital Aeronautical Flight Information File (DAFIF<sup>TM</sup>) from public access on Oct. 1, 2006. NGA announced its proposed intention to remove aeronautical products from public access in the Federal Register on Nov. 18, 2004. U.S. government agencies and government contractors, authorized access to the data, are not affected by this action.

NGA made the decision to remove aeronautical data due to an increased number of international source providers claiming intellectual property rights for source material. Many of these providers informed NGA of their intent to copyright the material. They claimed that NGA's public release of their aeronautical data violated copyright restrictions and should be discontinued.

The first phase of the withdrawal began in January 2006 with the initial removal of DAFIF<sup>TM</sup> from public sale. Electronic distribution of DAFIF<sup>TM</sup> to the general public, on the Word Wide Web, will cease on Oct. 1, 2006. On this date the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will also cease distribution of NGA Flight Information Publications except those products covering U.S. controlled airspace in the Caribbean and Pacific-Hawaii regions.

NGA paper map products, to a scale of 1:250,000 to 1:5,000,000 will continue to be made available to the public through FAA sales. In addition, for a period of one year (Oct. 1, 2006-Oct. 1, 2007), NGA will distribute a digital product covering U.S. airspace, called U.S. Flight Information File (USFIF) through the Web. The USFIF will cover the continental U.S., Hawaii, and U.S. Flight Information Regions (FIRs). Coverage will extend to the first waypoint across any international boundary. All boundary-coincident Special Use Airspace (SUAS) will also be depicted.

As announced in the Federal Register on Nov. 18, 2004 NGA originally intended to remove aeronautical products from public access on Oct. 1, 2005. As a result of

feedback from organizations and individuals, NGA decided to open public comment period (Dec. 17, 2004 to June 30, 2005) on the proposed action. NGA announced its decision to proceed with the action in November 2005.

NGA is a Department of Defense combat support agency and a member of the National Intelligence Community. Its mission is to provide timely, relevant and accurate geospatial intelligence in support of our national security. Geospatial intelligence is the exploitation and analysis of imagery and geospatial information to describe, assess, and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on the Earth. Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., NGA has major facilities in the greater Washington, D.C., and St. Louis, Mo., areas with NGA support teams worldwide.